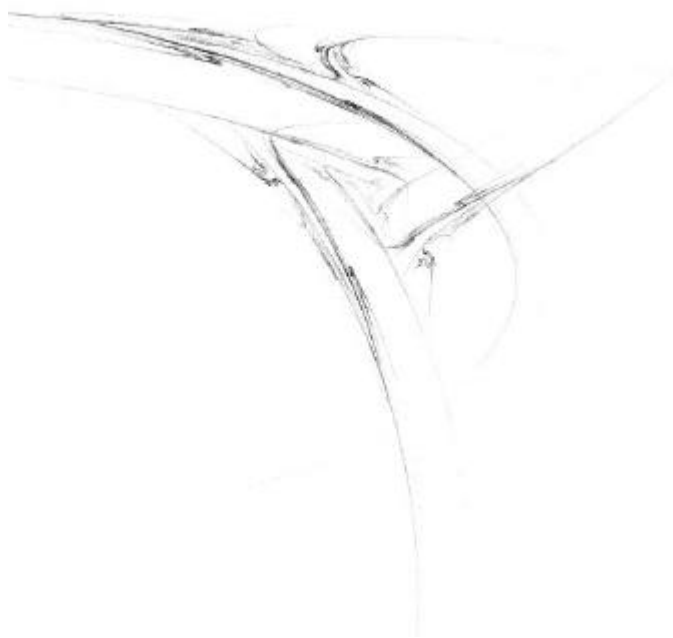


# **dakota journal**

ric carfagna



**xPress(ed)**

*Dakota Journal* by Ric Carfagna

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# Dakota Journal



Ric Carfagna

According to the futurist poet F. T. Marinetti, one of the aphorisms of futurism is "one image following closely on the heels of another in rapid succession". This work uses this credo by putting one slightly silly nonsequitural image after another to achieve a dubious collage of seldom seen *subjective* Americana. It was written one summer when my wife Mary and I were on vacation traversing the seemingly endless state of North Dakota on a drive from Minneapolis to Billings. Be that as it may, the subsequent poem "happened" in rapid succession, as it were.

# Dakota Journal

*(in en sats - read w/o pause)*

(you) never expect

---

a tornado to strike

---

at night

---

nor stop to consider

---

limits

---

an alternative

---

to change...

---

fluttering by

---

subjected to (two)

---

crossed out

---

mandolin players

---

on sparrow wings

---

post & beam forest

---

slivered contortionist

---

demarcating frost-

---

heaving      crow &

---

steel towers

---

feathered-stitch

---

scaled fish-flaking

---

city railroad degraded

---

mounds of cow

---

dung souled shoes

---

of fishtail clouds

---

archaic ironhorse siding

---

|                                  |
|----------------------------------|
| abandoned                        |
| anachronistic embellishments     |
| (disembodied) state-map roads    |
| not taken                        |
| through fallow cornstalk fields  |
| null attention given             |
| to the unfettered                |
| mind-numbing spatiality          |
| not to scale                     |
| underpaid perjorative            |
| wintering site                   |
| of the virtually extinct         |
| t-rex migration patterns         |
| least objective                  |
| neo-moronic                      |
| bad John Wayne movie             |
| not rated                        |
| high-plains drifting             |
| past wall-mart                   |
| 10 miles on left                 |
| impassioned billboard            |
| implementing subliminal elements |
| of fringe-existentialism         |
| passing cars never visit         |
| the overlydeveloped              |
| unnecessarily commodified        |
| tract-housing inhabitants        |
| alienating grain elevators       |

as distinct sky-  
lining the wooden spirit  
not (here)  
where we expect  
the face of car loads  
of toilet-paper fasts  
heliotropic mending  
the fleece on fossilized wings  
neon orange  
stegosaur bones (singular)  
beneath / the crosses  
on Medina hills  
crows nest here  
in sounds of novice  
condors / recessing  
in the smoke  
dripping "Do Not Pass"  
significations/placards  
of the unnoticed days  
collide in slippage  
of 12 dancing priests  
continuing the song  
resumes the levels  
doubling a mal-  
contented referentiality  
running together  
in heaps on pavement  
scorched sun-blistered

artic tan

---

geographically centered

---

here began posthaste

---

bastions bidding

---

preference

---

to empty acres

---

native

---

skeletal remains

---

of elvis sightings

---

to repossess time-

---

zones crossed

---

lack of

---

counter-clockwise-

---

kwik-way-convenience

---

savior of the plains

---

air-lifted fictions

---

factors in

---

sheltering

---

invisible flying predators

---

mutilating

---

worn-torn-tassled-afternoon

---

behind

---

a rich inheritance

---

the odes a wind selects

---

perched atop atolls

---

maybe drumlins nearing

---

the anatomically correct

---

resultant of a man-in-fested destiny

---



iconoclastic morning drizzles  
a repetitive road pizza  
illuminated inchoate fragments  
of secular psilocybin heresies  
honing in on the homologous  
fields of nine-mile-wire-horizons  
reprising nominal thots  
and dime-store novelties  
strictly platonic  
farmboy-sheep relationship  
engendering ones own  
radioactive pilgrimage  
thru basalt flats  
(not here)  
hiding in the hollow-  
mind "No Vacancy"  
color TV & cable  
movies FREE  
time  
to think again  
creeping upon faces  
scavaging atmospheric wrinkles  
perpetuate  
the land extracting  
a vain tooth's  
potential festering  
pilot-hog-back-woods  
residential dwellings

|                                  |
|----------------------------------|
| potential bio-eclectic           |
| economic deformities             |
| blown off course                 |
| coarse cows of a different color |
| bull-                            |
| slits in fences                  |
| barbed wire appendages           |
| local church social              |
| sandwiches (w/ cheese)           |
| FREE - no coffee                 |
| no services this exit            |
| unravelling cat gut              |
| scribbling posthumous inuendo    |
| upon the incidental              |
| paper mache                      |
| dashboard doilies                |
| hillbillyed pastiche             |
| plastic                          |
| backscratchers                   |
| backlit beneath                  |
| ancient incestual                |
| bandwagon jumpers                |
| still-borne chorus               |
| confusing bemused                |
| cruising altitudes               |
| triangulated                     |
| cross-stitched quilting bee      |
| donut-hole socials               |

|  |
|--|
| last saturday in april                     |
| (lost) local tuscan incestual generalities |
| kallikak late-night roll-ups               |
| past 7 pm                                  |
| last call                                  |
| of the early-bird                          |
| bingo halls                                |
| not smoke free                             |
| nuclear landfilled                         |
| restroom                                   |
| key required                               |
| not for public use                         |
| cow x-ing                                  |
| next 10 miles                              |
| no running water-                          |
| fall from grace-                           |
| full (relocated)                           |
| southern baptist                           |
| northern plain rodeos                      |
| southern-belled                            |
| sun-drenched sun dressed                   |
| cowgirls cruisin' cormorants               |
| virtual anorexic vultures                  |
| stalking sunday drivers                    |
| buzzing the underpopulated                 |
| craggy overburden                          |
| re-born rainstorm                          |
| ill-measured                               |

|                              |
|------------------------------|
| 100 year flood plain         |
| sodden                       |
| ancient ocean bottom         |
| dry riverbed alkalai desert  |
| <i>ROSEBUD</i> county        |
| tongues rivers               |
| whistle stop                 |
| great northern ghost         |
| of Orson's well-worn         |
| ten gallon congenital bistro |
| doldrumming cactus-          |
| county metamorphasizing      |
| sauna steam room             |
| wrinkled aggregate-surplus   |
| crop goods gathered          |
| potluck supper surprise      |
| dry cow commodities only     |
| serving breakfast all        |
| day no shoes no shirt        |
| no socks no service no       |
| suspect seen                 |
| crossing bow-river county    |
| in mid-cut bermuda mid-rifts |
| and miles to go before       |
| realizing                    |
| there's nothing              |
| worse than a bad soprano     |
| nor the roadside             |

|                                       |
|---------------------------------------|
| rigormortis of opiated rodents        |
| bypassing no-passing-zones            |
| standing heads of                     |
| siloed drumlins                       |
| pleasantly viewed deforestation       |
| moose jaw    point-of-entry           |
| pointless equestrian travail          |
| semaphoric sightings                  |
| lost at sea-                          |
| level headed long-load                |
| thumb solicitors                      |
| “going my way (big boy)”              |
| penile envy deer-                     |
| crossing                              |
| a neutral cornered                    |
| rococco architectural cornice         |
| fossilized feet                       |
| of deserving neolithic mohatma        |
| bordering rectangular                 |
| dry alchemy dirt farm                 |
| fallow summer field mice              |
| too tall to avoid                     |
| rubber-meeting-road                   |
| scenario                              |
| of castrated conundrums               |
| best kept secret for miles            |
| passing by                            |
| the once fertile detorial undergrowth |

by-past dusty bowl revisitation

---

flat-land portico

---

culturally depraved deprivations

---

east of exit # ...

---

spiritwood structures

---

stepped hills

---

radio riot acts

---

red/white retribution

---

dicussing freedom

---

monarch in flight

---

(from here) orange & white

---

emnities of a centripidal adagio

---

befriending a redneck's

---

necromantic reverie

---

brittle handful of dust

---

regurgitating bulimic neocanities

---

paper roadside roses

---

garnishing crop-circle juvenalia

---

retro red barn-door dinner dance

---

discotequed dateline

---

behind the time

---

of former coastal infusion

---

withdrawn mindfuls of sleep

---

encroaching kingdom hall's

---

orgasmically repressive

---

jumpin' Jehovahs

---

"hearer to thee than me"

---

on-line fraternal infrastructures

---

plaster-o-paris pigeon-holed porticos  
concrete redundancies  
(redundancies) driving  
pile-drivers with  
overextended corporate corpulence  
passing by  
a fast-lamed alternative candidate  
for Manchurian restoration  
solid stolid preservational  
invitation to  
"save the whales  
o'er the fruited plane"  
slack-jaw placard recurrence  
breaking curfew  
of lengthwise incision  
incisive surfieted  
channel surfers  
surfacing at roadside rodeo-stops  
noting that nothing  
scratches the circumambient  
sublimities of thot  
sequestering  
a blank page epiphany  
for a certainty of penguin flight  
in mottled blue-gray miniature mausoleums  
redeeming the corruptible  
watered down bible thumpers  
soliciting commodities

via interstate

---

entrepreneurial

---

greese monkeys

---

crossing county-slash-state lines

---

paralleling

---

really bitchin' '69 vet

---

protracted indifference to self-

---

potentiality's last purgative moment

---

surfacing to pay taxes on election day

---

again

---